But after the war, the situation seems to have normalised, and one cannot say that there is any large scale or long term impact of either the SARS or Iraq war that has taken place for or against us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### FM news channels

*361. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry has banned the broadcast of news on the private FM channels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite the ban Private FM channels are explaining the news in their own way and broadcasting them; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) As per the terms and conditions of Licence Agreement clause-7 Main Text "the licence is for free to air broadcast of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carrier both excluding news and current affairs and any other services which are under jurisdiction of Department of Telecommunication." And Clause 1 (a) Section - 6 of Tender Document "The licence shall be for free to air broadcasts of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carriers, both excluding News and Current Affairs". Therefore the private broadcasters are not permitted to broadcast news and Current Affairs.

(b) and (c) A complaint dated 11-6-2002 was received through CEO, Prasar Bharati regarding broadcasting of News and Current Affairs on Pvt. FM channel in Mumbai.

The matter was taken up with the company, who had responded that it had happened inadverantly and that they have taken measures to ensure that this is not repeated.

Central Monitoring Services had also been asked to monitor the radio stations in Delhi *viz.*, Radio Mirchy, 93.5 RED FM and Radio City private FM channels for 2 days continuously. Reports from Central Monitoring Services has since been received stating that there was no news programme by either of these stations, for the periods monitored by them on 19-07-2003 and 20-07-2003. Monitoring is being done by the Ministry to ensure that the terms and conditions of licence agreement are adhered to.